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pallid especially on the lower face: upper face pallid or slightly greenish. Internodes short, 2.5-4 cm. long; branches also whitish glaucous surpassing the first inflorescence. Cymes peduncled: flowers numerous 3-4 mm. long, campanulate. Corolla segments narrow, obtuse or rounded at the apex and cleft below the middle. Sepals linear-lanceolate or lanceolate surpassing the sinus of the corolla lobes. Flowers whitish or greenish.

Although the foliage of this plant as to size and shape resembles that described by Dr. Greene for *A. isophyllum*,* the dense white powdery glaucousness of the leaves is strikingly characteristic as vegetative mark. The flowers are very different, campanulate creamy white to greenish with long corolla lobes, and sepals reaching above their sinuses. The plant is one of the most leafy I have seen in the genus. I designate as type a single specimen No. 9167, gathered by myself in the dune region of Lake Michigan at Millers, Lake Co., Indiana. The plant was collected July 8, 1911, and is in the Herbarium of the University of Notre Dame.

Dept. of Botany.

Notre Dame, Ind.

Evactoma.

BY J. A. NIEUWLAND.

The plant now generally called *Silene stellata* (Linn.) Aiton, has held a rather uncertain place in botany according to the opinions at least of the older phytographers as is evident from the fact of its having been relegated several times from one genus to another and back again. Linnaeus himself had the plant in *Cucubalus*.¹ Aiton transferred it to *Silene*.² Rafinesque³ considered it as sufficiently characteristic to constitute the type of a new genus which he called *Evactoma*.

¹ Linnaeus, C. Species Plantarum p. 414, (1753). also 2nd Ed. p. 592, (1762).

Hort. Ups. p. 110, (1737) "Cucubalus foliis quaternis."

² Aiton, f. Hoetus Kewensis, 3: p. 84 (1811).

³ Rafinesque, C. S. Autikon Botanikon, pt. 1, Cent. III., p. 23, (1815-1840). The word evidently according to his own explanation of derivation should be written *Euactoma*, from the Greek *ευ*, well *τέμνω*, *ἐτομον*, (root *τομ*)-cut *ἀκτις*, ray or petal, referring to the deeply cleft petals,

The habit of the plant and certain important characters of the flower, such for example as crownless corolla lend favor to that author's view. The following is Rafinesque's diagnosis:

"*Evactoma* Raf. diff. *Silene* et *Cucubalus* cal. infl. camp. 5 fid. membranosis petalis 5 flabellatis, multifidis non coronatis, stylis 3, caps 3 loc. 3 valvis, fal. verticill. fl. subracem. This deserves to be a *G.* by habit and characters, the name means well cut star."

Evactoma stellata Raf. Cucub. et Sil do. O. N. America."

Silene stellata (Linn.) Ait, l. c.

Cucubalus stellatus Linn. l. c.

The type of the genus is with scarcely any doubt the glabrous membranous leaved plant of Virginia and farther South. The plant of the west and of farther North generally is scabrous pubescent especially on the inflorescence, stem, and leaves. The petals, are more deeply and unequally cleft and the narrow lobes more numerous. This latter character I have found difficult to determine to my utter satisfaction as the flowers of the herbarium specimens are, when not wanting, in rather poor condition. I have examined the specimens in the U. S. National Herbarium, but live material should be compared to obtain quite satisfactory results. I have therefore deemed it advisable to lay not too much stress on this character for the present and consider the northern and western plant as only a variety of the other. Though the specimens of the latter are more numerous in herbaria, I do not hesitate to designate the southeastern plant as the typical *E. stellata*.¹ Most authors before Linnaeus are silent as to the pubescence of the plant and that author himself does not mention it. John Ray, however, one of the first if not the very first unmistakeably to describe the plant designates it as "*Lychnidem Caryophyllum Virginianum gentianae foliis glabris quatuor ex singulis geniculis caulem amplexantibus, flore amplo fimbriato*. Ray, Hist. p. 1895 (1688). From this it is evident that the southern plant was first known in Europe, and found in the botanical gardens there. I need not hesitate then in describing the western and more northern plant as

Evactoma stellata var. **scabrella** var. nov.

Silene stellata var. *scabrella*.

¹ Bot. Mag. p. 1107, vol. 14. P. Miller, Gard. Dict. Ed. 7, (1759) Morison, R. Hist. 2 p. 577. Banister's Catalogue in Ray 2, p. 1927. J. Ray, 3 p. 246. Petiver. Sic. 30. Clay 7 no. 245 etc,

Planta rigidior et ejus partes imprimis folia, caules, et inflorescentia, scabrellae: folia quoque densiora quam in specie: petala multifida segmentis linearibus irregularibus linearibus: folia margine scabro-ciliata.

The plant though as little branched is less slender than the type.

The following are rather typical specimens of *E. stellata* in the U. S. National Herbarium. The plants were examined in the beginning of September, 1912. All the others with a few rather equivocal exceptions were found to be typical of the variety. I indicate the typical species specimens because they are not so numerous. R. Harper's 1101, Chatahoochie River, Ga. VII, 19, 1901. U. S. H. No. 400362. A. A. Heller's N. of Tucquan, Lancaster, Co. Pa. VII, 24, 1901. U. S. H. No. 406955. Apparently the most northern limit. W. Palmer's, Bedford Co. Va. VII, 24, 1906. U. S. H. No. 605061. W. Pollock's Bucklin Upshur Co., W. Va. VIII, 13, 1895. U. S. H. 261684. T. Kearney, Jr., 618. French Broad River. IX, 17, 1897. U. S. H. No. 313305. Albert Ruth's 197, Lookout Mountain, Ga. VII, 1898. U. S. H. No. 345380. E. C. Townsend's, Spring Mtn. Polk Co., N. Carolina, VII, 23, 1897. U. S. H. No. 341735. C. H. Boynton's 37, Highlands, N. C., VIII, 1888, U. S. H. No. 8830. J. K. Small's Summit Iron Mts. Skull Cap. Smyth Co., SW. Va. VIII, 11 and 21, 1892 U. S. H. No. 8841. Miss A. Moore's No. 5 Cades Mt. Tennessee, VIII, 1895. U. S. H. No. 250437. C. L. Pollard's and W. Maxon's, De Kalb Co., Ga. Stone Mt. VIII, 12 and 18, 1900. U. S. H. No. 443001. Thaxter's, Cullowhee, N. C. (ex Herb. A. Gray) 1887 U. S. H. 415904.

As types of the new variety I may designate No. 10541 gathered at Notre Dame, No. 3497 collected by W. W. Calkins, at Berwyn, Ill. (his own No. 181) is in bud and flower, another 7333 collected by the same at Hyde Park, Ill. is typical, also No. 3491, by Dr. F. Powers at Notre Dame, and my own fruit specimens No. 2136 are all examples from my herbarium.

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